(c) if so, the action taken against such units?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) (a) NALCO and the Thermal Power Plants at Angul have provided requisite air pollution control facilities comprising of Dry Scrubbing System (DSS) at the Smelter Plant and Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) at Thermal Power Plant at Angul. In Talcher Thermal Power Station (NTPC) at Talcher, the Stage-II boilers have been retrofitted with modified ESPs but in State-I boiler, the retrofitting of ESP would be completed by 2002.

(b) and (c) The regular ambient air quality monitoring by the State Pollution Control Board indicates that the air quality is generally within the prescribed norms. However, there was an incident of breach in the embankment of Ash Pond II of NALCO at Angul on 31st December, 2000, which resulted in discharge of ash slurry and caused a flash flood in river Nandira and Brahamni and affected 23 villages. The Orissa Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board have issued directions for taking remedial measures to check the pollution.

Protection of Coastal Ecology

4346. SHRI. B. J. PANDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to protect the coastal ecology and environment;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard;

(c) the present state of coastal zones in each coastal State;

(d) whether a new National Coastal Zone Policy is proposed to be prepared; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) (a) and (b) The Government issued the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification dated 19.2.1991 to protect the country's coastal environment by regulating activities in CRZ. The Government has also constituted the National and State/Union Territories level Coastal Zone Management Authorities under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and delegated to them powers to take necessary measures for protecting and improving the quality of the coastal environment and preventing, abating and controlling environmental pollution in

coastal areas, besides taking appropriate action regarding violations of the CRZ Notification.

(c) In accordance with the CRZ Notification , 1991 the coastal States and Union Territories have prepared Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) categorising the CRZ areas into CRZ-I, II, III and IV. The developmental activities in these zones shall be regulated as per provisions of the CRZ Notification, 1991 and stipulations of the approved CZMPs.

(d) and (e) The Government constituted an Expert Committee to draw up draft frame work of a National Coastal Zone Policy. The Committee has submitted the report. The Government has assigned a project for mapping ecologically sensitive coastal areas.

Forestry Research, Education and Extension Project of ICFRE

†4347. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1430, given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd August,2001 and state :

(a) the reasons for not initiating any study so far regarding the benefits or outcome of the project of ICFRE, even after six years of its commencement;

(b) whether Government propose to do so after completion of the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) (a) to (c) The main objectives of the World Bank Aided FREE Project are Capacity Building and Infrastructure Development of ICFRE, Conservation of Bio-diversity through Wildlife Park Management and Eco-development in Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh and the Forest Policy Analysis and Building of Project Preparation Capabilities in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Planting Stock Improvement Programme is one of the components of the Project which entails improvement of planting stock through Seed Production Areas (SPA), Clonal Seed Orchards (CSO), Seedling Seed Techniques (SST), Vegetative Multiplication Gardens (VMG) and Improved Nursery Techniques (INT) undertaken for increasing the productivity of forests in the country. The Institute has established 1225.62 ha of SPA, 166.45 ha of CSO, 344.40 ha of SSO and 56.60

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.